



THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
*The State University of New York*

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# Employee Introduction to The Research Foundation of SUNY

September 2009



# The Research Foundation's Mission

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Welcome to The Research Foundation of SUNY (RF), a private nonprofit corporation.

## **Our Mission**

- The Research Foundation works with the academic and business leadership of campuses to support research and discovery at SUNY through efficient and skillful administration of sponsored projects and adept transfer and sharing of intellectual property for public benefit and economic growth.



# The Research Foundation's Vision

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The Research Foundation will be the best-in-class partner as it:

- delivers high quality, focused and efficient service to faculty and staff, sponsors and the SUNY research community
- provides an environment that facilitates sponsored program collaboration - among SUNY campuses and with the public and private sectors
- capitalizes on the scope, scale and diversity of SUNY as an engine of New York State's innovation economy

# RF Support

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The RF supports faculty and staff conducting **sponsored programs** and research that extend the boundaries of human knowledge and drive economic development.

- **Sponsored program:** A program (to conduct research, training or public service) that is funded by a sponsor (federal/state government, businesses and foundations such as the American Cancer Society) through a formal written grant or contract.



# Why a Research Foundation?

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The RF gives SUNY faculty and staff the infrastructure and flexibility they need to pursue their **sponsored program** goals. **Sponsored programs** operate on short time frames (usually only one year to complete the project) and often require:

- prefunding of expenditures prior to sponsor reimbursement.
- flexibility to employ people within the project start and end dates.
- timely purchase of supplies and equipment and reimbursement of travel costs.
- timely billing of sponsors for payment.



# RF Core Values

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In carrying out its mission, the RF values:

- people, community and collaboration
- the academic environment and individual campus missions
- integrity and ethical behavior
- flexibility, adaptability and innovation
- quality and efficiency
- accountability and transparency



# Ethics

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- The Research Foundation (RF) strives to maintain the highest ethical standards in all of its operations; promotes professional conduct among its employees and any individual acting on behalf of the RF; and ensures a level of accountability appropriate for a world-class organization.
- The RF's ethics hotline is one way to encourage everyone in the Research Foundation (RF) community to fully understand and embrace the concept of ethics and accountability.
- Submit a report of fraud, waste or abuse to the ethics hotline on the RF Web site ([www.rfsuny.org](http://www.rfsuny.org)) or call in a report to 800-670-7225.

# RF Key Facts

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- ❑ Private, nonprofit 501(c) 3 educational corporation.
- ❑ Established in 1951.
- ❑ Operates under 1977 agreement with SUNY that was approved by the NYS Attorney General, State Comptroller, and Director of the Budget.
- ❑ Offices at 30 SUNY locations (state-operated) and a central office in Albany.
- ❑ One of over 100 university-connected research foundations in the United States and is recognized as the largest and most comprehensive.



# RF is not SUNY or NYS

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- The RF does not receive state appropriations or services provided to New York State agencies.
- Employees of the RF are not indemnified under the NYS Public Officers Law, are not entitled to representation by the New York State Attorney General, and do not participate in the state's retirement or fringe benefits programs.
- The RF is responsible for its own financial, legal, and business systems, its personnel policies, payroll services and employee fringe benefits programs.
  - RF employees receive a competitive benefits package comparable to that of their state counterparts.

# Leadership

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- The RF is governed by a board of directors composed of:
  - representatives of business and industry.
  - researchers.
  - campus and system administrators.
  
- The chancellor of the University serves as chair of the board *ex officio*.



# RF Central Office in Albany

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- Is the corporate headquarters of the RF.
- Provides a framework for performing operational activity at the campus level related to RF services.
- Performs centralized sponsored programs and technology transfer operational activity for campuses where volumes don't warrant performing the activity at the campus.
- Employs approximately 170 people, which represents a small percentage of the RF's 17,400 employees state-wide.

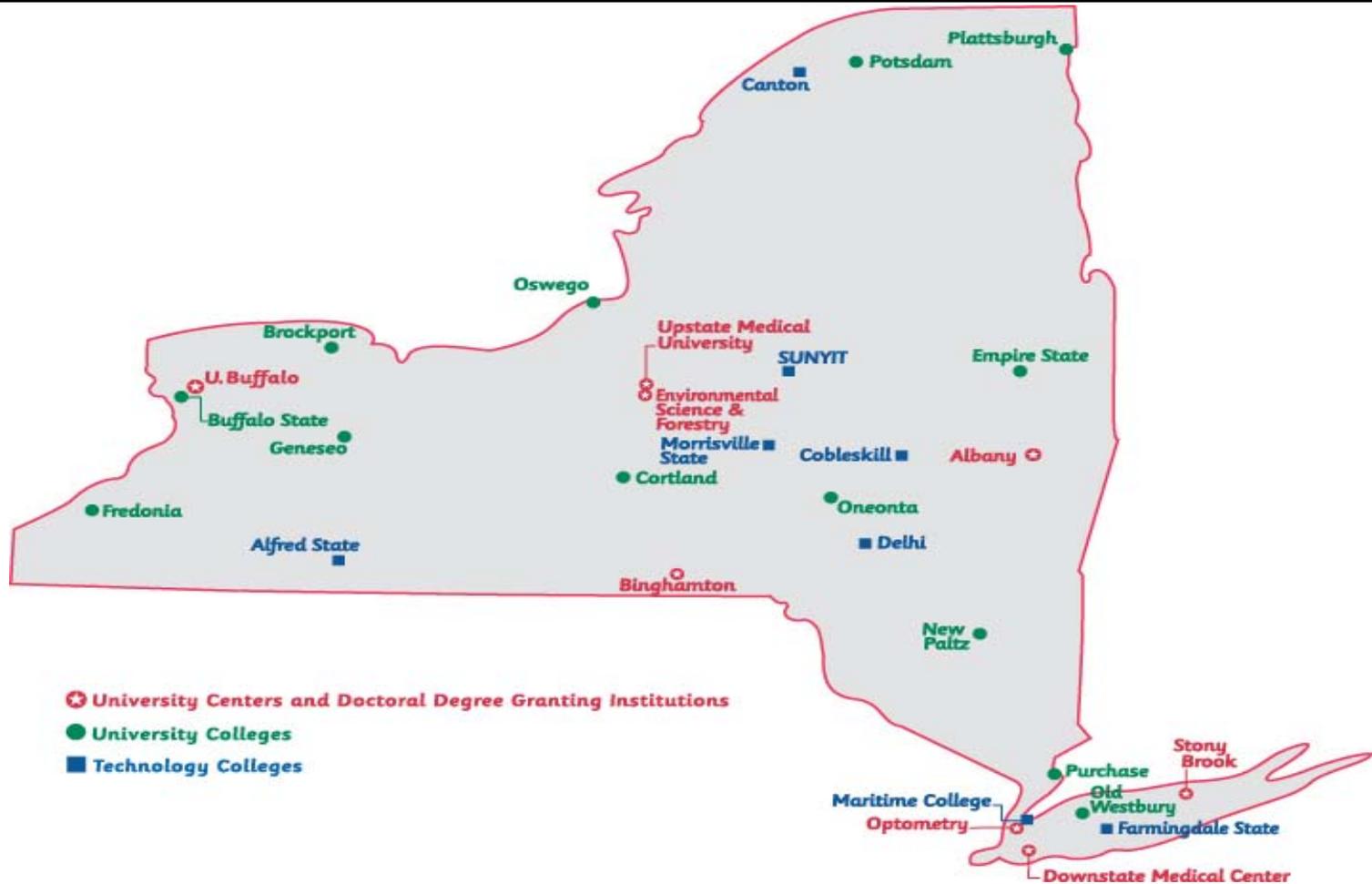


# RF Campus Offices

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- ❑ Campus RF offices perform day-to-day operational activity related to RF services.
- ❑ The RF operations manager (OM) at each campus is responsible for Research Foundation activity at the campus.
  - The OM is appointed by the RF's board on the recommendation of the respective campus president.

# RF Campus Offices



# Sponsored Programs Administration

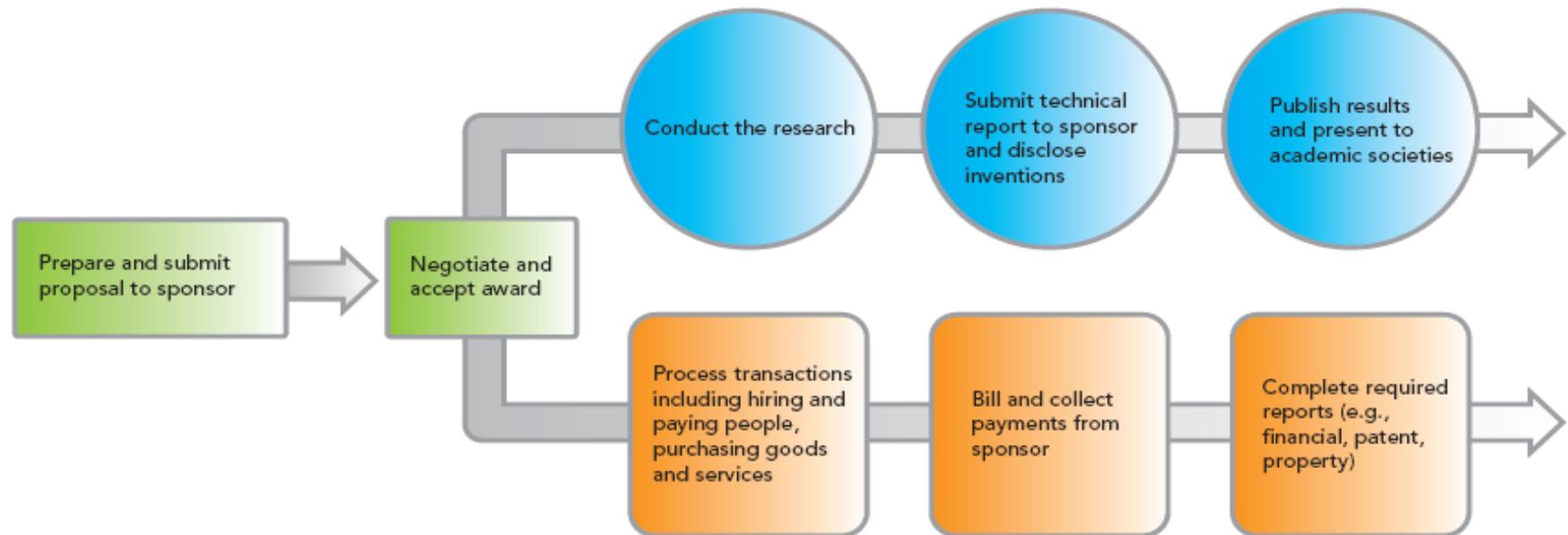
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- ❑ The RF's core service is sponsored programs administration.
- ❑ Sponsored programs administration encompasses the functions which help faculty and staff conduct their sponsored program, including:
  - ❑ contract and grant accounting
  - ❑ human resources, payroll, and benefits
  - ❑ purchasing and accounts payable

# Sponsored Program Lifecycle

Pre-award

Post-award



■ Principal investigator and RF business office

● Principal investigator

■ RF business office

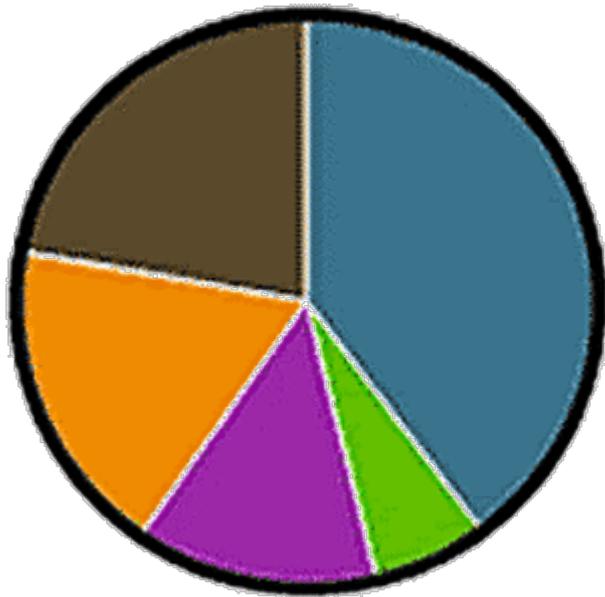
# Sponsored Program Volume

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- ❑ In fiscal year 2009, the RF managed approximately \$850 million in awards from federal and state governments, businesses and foundations in support of more than 7,279 campus-based research and training programs.
- ❑ The RF's project-related and administrative activities provide jobs to approximately 17,160 people per year.
- ❑ Sponsored programs are carried out in New York State, throughout the United States and abroad.

# Volume by Sponsor Type (FY2008)

## \$ Volume and Breakdown {in dollars}



Federal	339,788,709
Federal - Through Other	54,199,260
Federal - Through NYS	115,323,136
NYS - Direct	153,491,920
Business, Industry & Other	187,158,083
<b>Total</b>	<b>849,961,108</b>



# Other RF Services

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- Technology Transfer
  - Protect and market inventions that result from sponsored programs.
  
- Affiliated corporation establishment and oversight
  - Create separate corporations for government-industry-university partnerships (for example Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC to run Brookhaven National Laboratory).
  
- Human resources, payroll, purchasing for campus-related organizations
  - For clinical practice plans and other “agencies”.



# Additional Resources

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Find out more information about:

The RF:

- [Visit the RF Web site](http://www.rfsuny.org) at [www.rfsuny.org](http://www.rfsuny.org)

Your RF Employment:

- [Read the Employee Handbook](#) - To locate the *Employee Handbook*, log in to the RF Web site ([www.rfsuny.org](http://www.rfsuny.org)) and click Your RF Employment in the left navigation. *Employee Handbook* is the first link in the drop-down list.